No 25[16].

To the Honourable Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes, of the *Commons Houſe of Parliament:*

The humble Petition as well, of diuers Merchants and Citizens of London *that vſe buying and ſelling of Fuſtians made in* England, *as of the makers of the ſame* Fuſtians.

WHereas by the Statutes of this Realme, Broade-clothes and other Clothes made of Wooll and other kind of Cottons, Frizes and Rugges, are to be ſearched and ſealed by his Maieſties Alnager, yet in the 36. yeere of the reigne of Queene *Elizabeth* a Patent was granted to Sr. *George Delues* and *William Fitzwilliams* as Alnagers, for the ſealing of diuerſe commodities, as Bayes, Raſh, Stamell, Sayes, Worſteeds, Grogerams, Mockadoes, Frizadoes, Fuſtians of Naples, Blankets, and all ſorts of new Draperies, and new Stuffes made of Wooll onely, or moſt part of Wooll; and a Subſidie and Fee for the ſame for 21. yeeres, vpon pretence being made of Wooll, they were within the equitie of the former Statutes. And wheras about twenty yeeres paſt diuerſe people in this Kingdome, but chiefly in the Countie of *Lancaſter*, haue found out the trade of making of other Fuſtians, made of a kind of Bombaſt or Downe, being a fruit of the earth growing vpon little ſhrubs or buſhes, brought into this Kingdome by the Turkie Merchants, from *Smyrna*, *Cyprus*, *Acra* and *Sydon*, but commonly called Cotton Wooll; and alſo of Lynnen yarne moſt part brought out of *Scotland*, and otherſome made in *England*, and no part of the ſame Fuſtians of any Wooll at all, for which ſaid Bombaſt and yarne imported, his Maieſtie hath a great yeerely ſumme of money for the Cuſtome and Subſidie thereof.

There is at the leaſt 40. thouſand peeces of Fuſtian of this kind yeerely made in *England*, the Subſidie to his Maieſtie of the materials for making of euery peece comming to betweene 8.d. and 10.d. the peece; and thouſands of poore people ſet on working of theſe Fuſtians.

The right honourable Duke of *Leneux* in 11. of *Iacobus*, 1613. procured a Patent from his Maieſtie, of Alnager of new Draperies for 60. yeeres, vpon pretence that Wooll was conuerted into other ſorts of Commodities to the loſſe of Cuſtomes and Subſidies for Wooll tranſported beyond Seas; and therein is inſerted into his Patent, ſearching and ſealing, and Subſidie for 80 ſeuerall Stuffes; and amongſt the reſt, theſe Fuſtians or other Stuffes of this kind of Cotton Wooll, and Subſidie and a fee for the ſame, and forfeiture of 20.s. for putting any to ſale vnſealed, the moiety of the ſame forfeiture to the ſaid Duke, and power thereby giuen to the Duke or his Deputies, to enter any mans houſe to ſearch for any ſuch Stuffes, and ſeize them till the forfeiture be paid; and if any reſiſt ſuch ſearch, to forfeite 10l. and power thereby giuen to the Lord *Treaſurer* or *Chancellor* of the *Exchequer*, to make new ordinances or grant Commiſſions for the ayde of the Duke and his officers in execution of their office.

The Petitioners doe conceiue, (which they neuertheleſſe leaue to the conſideration of this honourable Houſe,) that the ſaid Patent concerning Fuſtians made of ſuch Bombaſt or Cotton Wooll, and lynnen Yarne, to bee voyd in Law, there being no Wooll vſed therein, and the King hauing Subſidie and Cuſtome for the Stuffe whereof theſe fuſtians are made, & the patent a greeuance and loſſe to them in their Trades, and by ſeaſing their goods, & exactions of ſuch as pretend to be the Dukes deputies, of great ſommes of money for ſealing the Fuſtians; or putting the petitioners to annuall rents to be at peace, and where they exact money they force the parties to giue them a generall releaſe; and others troubled by warrants from Iuſtices of peace; and namely in London, the deputie Alnager ſeaſed a Packe of Fuſtians of one *George Corniſh*, worth 50.l. and forced him to pay 40.s. to the ſayd deputie before hee could haue againe his goods, and giue the deputie a generall releaſe.

A Packe of fuſtyans of *Lawrence Brinſley* ſeaſed as aforeſaid, and hee forced to pay 20.s.6.d. and giue a releaſe.

Robert Steuens, a Packe taken from him, and he forced to pay for the ſame 15.s. 6.d. and giue a releaſe.

Iohn Crow had 7. peeces ſeaſed, which coſt him 22.s. to get againe.

Robert Graye had a Packe taken from him, and redeemed by repleeuin

Iohn Goffe had a Packe taken from him, for which he arreſted the Alnager; and ſpent 10.l. and thereby got his goods againe after 6. moneths kept from him, but could not bring him to tryall.

Iohn Brand of *Buntingford* being by the Dukes deputies many times called before Iuſtices of peace for refuſing to giue them their demaunds, was by them brought into the *Exchequor*, and being a poore man, and vnable to ſtand in Law, was forced to agree with them, and giue a fine and 4.s. yearlie as a rent, and now called the Dukes Tennant.

Many others are compelled, ſome to take from them a ſtampe to ſeale their owne Fuſtyans withall, and become their tennants at a yearely Rent, for they neuer care for the ſealing of the Fuſtyans ſo they may get money.

For all which cauſes the Peticioners humblie pray, the Patent may be brought and ſeene in this honorable Houſe, and the Petitioners releeued, as to this honorable Houſe ſhall ſeeme good.

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